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CERAMIC PRODUCTION AND RAW MATERIALS IN THE TUSCAN-LIGURIAN REGION: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND PETROGRAPHIC APPROACH IN A DIACHRONIC PERSPECTIVE

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This contribute focuses on the history of ceramic production of a large geographic area from the archaeological point of view encompassing Liguria and N-W Tuscany and using a petro-archaeometrical approach (essentially based on thin-section analyses of more than a thousand of samples).

The scope of the research is to reconstruct the productive districts combining information from the Prehistory to the late Roman age in a diachronic perspective (Capelli et al. 2006, 2017). The region under study extending from Ventimiglia (in western Liguria) to the Cecina Valley (in central Tuscany) is characterized by a marked geological variability allowing the definition of specific production areas based on mineralogical-petrographic data.

Our research combines information collected from different sources including raw materials and samples of the earliest productions (Neolithic wares) to Roman and Late Roman products (cooking wares: pots, pans, saucepans, lids) and wastes of ceramic workshops identified in the study area (Menchelli et al. 2001, 2011). This diachronic approach allows the definition of subregional productive districts characterized by specific fabrics/mineralogical-petrographic assemblages.

Finally, some case-studies will be presented in detail.

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